

HENRY DARGER -

" THE VIVIAN
GIRLS
IN CHICAGO "

Microsystems, Inc.

VOLUME NINE

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PROGRAM RECORD

DATE

NAME	CLASS		ROOM							
	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
	SUBJECT	RM	SUBJECT	RM	SUBJECT	RM	SUBJECT	RM	SUBJECT	RM
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to her. When good people died they went to heaven. The two little girls were good they no doubt went straight to heaven, if not to Purgatory first but she, Phobla was not good.

She had been told not to go into strange places without her parent's permission, and of knowing where she was, she was a coward afraid of thunderstorms and she had done a great many other bad things besides.

Her governess said God didn't approve of people who objected going to Mass on 17 of Sundays and she had

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objected a good many times. If God was angry at her did not love her and she died what would become of her in eternity.

Would her sins be just enough to allow a long term in Purgatory or would they be big enough to cause her eternal punishment?

In these dreadful moments in these solitary woods little Phobia was thinking perhaps the very first serious thoughts of her life.

She began to cry again until her head ached. If she could only feel sure that God would continue to take care of

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her and forgive her she thought she would not be quite so frightened, but she had been so very very wicked she was afraid He might not be taking any interest in her.

Suddenly there came a new thought which brought with it a faint ray of hope and comfort.

God always forgave people if they went to Confession and let him know how sorry they were and that they wanted to be better.

It might be getting near her bed time anyway and she really

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say her prayers though
it would seem very strange
to say them out there
in the dreaded woods in-
stead her own little bed.

She could not kneel
down because her knee
hurt so much but she
made the sign of the
cross, 'In the name of
the Father, Son and Holy
Ghost, folded her hands
and raised her eyes
to the darkening skies
in which the first stars
were beginning to show
themselves.

"O dear Jesus the
Son of God" she said
softly. "please take
care of me and let me
get safely home again
to papa" and mama.

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and my governess. I've
been very, very naughty
I know, and perhaps I don't
deserve it, but if I only
get home again I will try
to be a better girl indeed
I will.

And oh dear Blessed
Mother of God please
don't let any more little
girls and boys to die at
the 'Crazy House' they
are all so good and
sweet and let the little
Virgins I hear so much
about. My governess
says I'm heartless
but I don't really think
I am.

I do want to be very
good, and I don't want
any one to die there. Oh
dear God please let

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someone come and find me before it gets any darker."

"Hark what was that?

Surely it was the sound of approaching wheels. Little Gladys sprang to her feet.

Her heart beating so fast she could scarcely breathe.

Was someone coming after all? Perhaps

it was gypsies. She had read about in books

that gypsies traveled

about the country in

wagons and had also heard somewhere that they occasionally stole little children.

But even to be stolen by gypsies would be better than to be caught and killed by dreadful remembered

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she decided. nearer and nearer came the wheels and now she could hear the sound of mens horses.

Then she saw a strange light as of the flash of a lantern, the wagon or what ever it was coming very near indeed.

In another moment Gladys' some distant away but within very easy hearing distance was considerably startled by the sound of a child's voice calling imploringly from somewhere in the darkness,

"Oh whoever is the wagon will you please stop. I'm a little and I'm lost. Oh please do

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take me home I'm so dreadfully, dreadfully frightened."

Gladys gave an exclamation of astonishment and she raced hastily to the spot.

"Phobie my little friend" cried Gladys. "Where in the world did you come from? What made you come in here."

No there's no wagon coming. I heard an un-seen noise phenomena, what in the world does this mean?

One glance and then with a shriek of uncontrollable delight little Phobie flung herself into the arms

of the astonished Gladys and was clinging around her neck in an almost strangling embrace.

"Oh Gladys Gladys" she wailed. "I've been so awfully awfully bad."

I was angry with my governess because she said I was heartless and cowardly and to scare her I went away without permission or telling her where I was going and I got lost I believed in Mr Resemann's "crazy woods" and couldn't find my way home again. I was afraid some awful phenomena would occur and kill me like it did Paulina and the Orphan

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but I asked God please to take care of me and to send some one and I guess he heard me, for you came right away after that. Oh Gladys please take me home, I'm so very very sorry."

Chapter 73

10/00

Father Carney settles the difficulty.

The secret of the Octopus.

"Ah Grandpa isn't the life of St Anthony the very loveliest story you ever read?"

Joy closed her big book and turned her radiant face towards her companion.

"To a beautiful story Mr Dinsdale agreed but I'm afraid you must be tired. You've been reading to me for a good part of the afternoon, you know."

"I'm not a bit tired" said Joy leaning back in the big easy chair with a little sigh of content. "I never get tired reading I'm so glad you like being

10101

read to you really do like it don't you grandpa?
Better than most things in the world I fancy but you must not let me be a selfish old fellow and keep you to myself all the time!"

"You selfish" laughed Joy "the very idea of such a thing. Is if you were not the very kindest grandpa in the world."

"There there" that will do" interrupted the old gentleman looking immensely pleased nevertheless "you mustn't flatter the old gentleman so much or you'll be flattering or turning his head. Where

10102

are your little friends, the Vinnians these days? I have not seen them for thirteen days." They're fighting the Banshees in Mr. Resemann's house. I have been there for fourteen days now. Father Carney came to tell or talk to Hannah about them this morning. I guess he's going over to see Mr. Resemann this afternoon.

"Seems to me the Banshees hold their ground pretty stubbornly and drive those fairy princesses out of the place pretty frequently - does it not strike you in that light?"

10103

"Oh they'll get plenty of
help from the Octopus.
Ides so kind to Pennrod and
his sisters, and they like
him so much, he's tak-
ing ever so much trouble
about Mr Remmants
house, the demons will
soon be driven out you
know, and I suppose he
likes to talk about it.

The greatest danger
is those strange fire
balls that form and
swarm through the grounds
during the afternoon.

They're terrible hot
blazing globes that
take various sizes
and which the little
Varians say disinte-
grate a person
leaving nothing.

10108

but his shadow.) had
seen it happen to a little
kitten with my very
eyes."

Mr Hinsdale looked
a little concerned, but
he said nothing and
there was a short
silence, while Joy
stroked the big book
in her lap with low-
ing fingers.

"What are you think-
ing of Joy?" Mr Hinsdale
asked breaking the
pause in his old abrupt
way.

Joy smiled.
I was only thinking
how much like Heaven
this beautiful world
would be if every
one was like Pennrod!

10105

and his sisters," she said.

A shadow crossed her grandfather's face and he laid his hand tenderly on the little golden head.

"Do you often wish you could be like them joy?"

"Yes indeed" said Joy with cheerful alacrity
"I hardly ever think I can be though. I always wished it and spoke of it to them sometimes because I thought that if I could be like them, I might be able to do the things they do also."

"And why couldn't you do as much as they do now?"

"Oh - because I know Penrod and his sisters

10106

are possessed by angels and can and have to do anything and are willing to do anything the angels want and because anyway I'm so happy with them and in their company that I couldn't be any happier anywhere else, no matter what happened."

"You are easily satisfied little girl" Mr Hinsdale said suppressing a sigh. "I wish there were more people in the world with their holiness and disposition myself, it would be a happier and better place. I'm thinking. But I'm very much afraid

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10108

they could never drive
the devils out. The priests
meet with every obstacle
too."

Joy took her grandfather's
hand and laid her cheek
against it.

"I don't think you quite
ought to say that Grandpa"
she said slowly "But I
don't see how they are brave
enough to do it, or the
priests and the man
called the 'Octopus' with
them. The place hasn't
got a good disposition
at all I'm afraid.
it has been pretty horrid
and mighty dangerous
always."

Mrs Hinndale laugh-
ed.

Pretty horrid and

dangerous is it. Upon
what special occasions
if? may ask?"

"It was what I heard
when we lived at Mrs
Scott's" said Joy gravely.
and Aggies used to come
home so tired especially
on rainy nights. I could
always tell by her voice
when she was tired
though she used to pre-
tend she wasn't. Then
when at supper I often
heard lots of talk
in hushed tones about
Mr Heremans crazy
house, the two little
girls' and the hobos
that got killed, and
how Mrs Scott and
all kinds of people
used to tell me of all

10/109

the crazy phenomena
and how four times the
members of the fire de-
partments were called
out, day and nights too to
fight the dangerously strange
and crazy fire phenomena,
that did not burn the build-
ing, but gave terrific heat,
just the same.

And it doesn't seem
fair to Pennod and his
sisters that they have to
work so hard and win
nothing.

Yes I'm afraid is far
worse than any of the
newspapers say, and
because of it I did
have some very hor-
rid thoughts some-
times."

"And how about your-

10/110

self?" her grandfather
inquired with a smile.
"Did you ever think it
unfair that you did not
have the chance to be
born a little human too?"

"Oh I was all right"
said Joy innocently "I
always had everything
I needed, and I never
had bad times and I
go to Holy Communion
every day."

Mr. Edindale said
nothing but he put
his arm around around
the little figure and
drew her very close.

There was a moment
happy silence and
then Joy lifted her
head from her grand-
father's shoulder with

10/11

10/12

a little start.

"There's the doorbell" she exclaimed. "I guess it's Gladys, she said she was coming over this afternoon."

All right run along and meet her but give me a kiss first and leave your book down here. Perhaps bye and bye you may feel like reading me another chapter."

"Yes indeed I shall feel like it" said Joy looking much pleased at the suggestion. "And Aggie and I have learned a new duet to play you for you this evening before I go to bed"

And bestowing upon the old gentleman a very hearty embrace the little girl tripped away humming one of the famous Catholic ballads probably the jewels of the Madonna her grandfather loved as she went.

In the front hall she encountered Gladys and Sarah.

"I'm so glad you come" said Joy kissing her friend affectionately. "I want to show you the new letter game Grandpa got for me. The letters for some reason or other are all raised and its such fun playing it. Won't you come up stairs too, Sarah?"

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"No thank you not this afternoon, though God knows I'd just love to," said Sarah. "Most sincerely?" "I have some work to do concerning the Reserman house as I'm helping the little Vinnians too, but I shall be back for Miss Gladys at half past six now. Miss Gladys mind you don't get discouraged in what ever you may hear from Resermans. Time will tell."

Sarah's tone was encouraging and Gladys looked more hopeful than usual while peace loving Joy hastened to make everyone comfortable.

"We'll both faithfully

10118

promise not to pay any attention to any news except brought by the little Vinnians or Father Carney. Went like Gladys' she said slipping an arm around her friend's waist "so don't worry me about any news we might hear elsewhere Sarah dear. Hammahs upstairs and my sister will be at home in a little while."

Sarah made no more remarks but took her leave at once and the two little girls went up the steps to Joy's room.

The early May sunshine was pouring in at the windows.

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lighting up every object from the Canary in his cage to the row of big books on the shelves which ran all around one side of the big room.

There was no lack of new books for Joyce in these happy days.

Even the carpet and wall paper had been changed a few weeks before and a brighter prettier room it would be difficult to find.

Joyce used to declare that she felt just like a princess living in such magnificent quarters.

"Isn't Desemans house horrid?" said Gladys tossing her hat.

10116

on the bed in a manner that the prim Sarah would scarcely have approved of "The little Vincians cannot make any headway, the devils are always increasing their crazy and disagreeable phenomena, and reminding people of things that should not be printed in newspapers,

Even papa notices it and he told Sarah the other day that he believed if the little Vincians didn't drive the Banshees out by the end of the month of May they would never be driven out at all."

10117

hate demons, I hate them."

"The 'Crazy House' isn't pleasant" Joy admitted "but I suppose Mr. Resemann can't help it, it's just that he wasn't told of it by his first tenants."

"Well I wish they had told him", (they had) said Gladys crossly "or it's a very disagreeable situation, and when the banshees keep hold ing out, it always makes me discouraged and I don't want to be discouraged. And say little foolish Phobie was in the grounds and when I brought her home and her

10118

parents learning where she had been were hysterical though they rewarded me for saving her. I didn't want any reward, but they wouldn't take no for an answer. I don't want no one to go in there but they do the crazy fools."

There was a pathetic little quiver in Gladys voice and Grace hastened to say sympathetically

"Perhaps if you would offer a novena to the

I cried. Heart the might give your little friends victory and that would be glorious. Why don't you try it anyway?"

"I do, I offer a continual novena but it seems of

10120

no use as every body Cath-
olic and Protestants alike
also does it and no results,"
said Gladys mournfully? "I
guess the ground was possess-
ed long before the house
was built, Sarah says.

The Grahams ought to be
able to do something,
and also Miss Anges'
Joy laughed and flu-
shed a little too?

"I dont know anything
about the Grahams being
able to do it" she said.
Aggies good at devil chao-
ing they say - but Jim
not. But Gladys I do
think Sarah can find
a way to show you
how to help them.

Hannah says your
cook told her Sarah

10121

was dreadful surprised
about you the day you
went into the grounds
of Leermans and res-
cued the foolish little
girl."

It was Gladys turn
to blush now. She did
not like to have the
events of that night
mentioned by any one
not even Joy.

Still she was an hon-
est truthful little girl
and it was not fair to be
unjust to Sarah.

"She does surely be-
lieve I am a heourne
when I brought little
Pholie home that au-
ful night. She said
no herself and when
I told how I found her

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there, and asked her if I did right, she kissed me and said it was all right. But I dont think she need mention to everybody else every single day since. I'm no heroine never was brave. She keeps talking about it to people the whole time, so they call me the little heroine and it does make me very uncomfortable.

Oh Joy if I could only see the little Virians drive those Banshees out of Mr. Petersmann I know I shall be glad.

And oh if I had a sister like Miss Anger things would be

10123

better."

Joyce's face brightened. It was always a great pleasure to hear her adored Aggie praised.

"But I dont think things can be done because the little Virians aint got all the parts to their Palo instrument" Gladys went on in a rather aggrieved tone "and they have to go back some time to that horrid war over there. Oh dear how I do hate it all. I dont see why some people have all the nice things and other people have the horrid ones."

"They've got lots of nice things" said Joy soothingly "Just think of all they

10/24

can do and I guess its their duty to go back home when the time comes. I'm to have a governess too you know, Grandpa has written to the superintendent of a private school about one and the Vinnans are possessed by angels.

I don't believe angels are everything" said Gladys ignoring the latter part of her friend's speech "The Vinnans have got so many nice things than the angels have. There's many good priests and Bishops keeping them. There's the man called the Octopus her powerful too, and I really do

10/25

think - because they are the loveliest little girls in the world, the demons are jealous, and that makes them stubborn, and there's Father Carny Carny, he's quite a good devil fighter too though they don't seem to be afraid of him, and there's Jack Evans, he never gives in either and he chases the wicked banshees away whenever he wants to."

"Oh no he doesn't" said Joy laughing. "The little Vinnans say the Banshees make a fool of him every day just when he thinks he's winning and the little girls are always

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no dreadfully afraid
of the Banshees doing
awful things to him.
Aggie says they worry
a great deal more about
him than theres any
necessity for but we
wouldnt tell them so
for we love them very
much.

"They are the best
little girls in the world."

"I wish I could have
been born one of them"
said Gladys with a sigh,

"I know they are much
nicer than any little
girls in the world.

I wouldnt mind about
fighting Banshees all
the time, but when
the Banshees keep
on repulsing you all

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the time, it is so horrid
and it makes me feel
so mean about it."

"We're going to see what
we can do for the little
holy girls you know"
I put in gay cheer-
fully Grandpa went
yesterday to visit some
special priests he knows
well. He wants Aggie
to help him. Oh Gladys
wont it be beautiful
if the little Princesses
succeed.

"They are so pretty
and so sweet I know
every body loves them"

"They're the prettiest
and bravest little
people ever seen
by any body and
I heard every body

10128

who found their picture in newspapers and magazines telling of their war against the awful fiends, kept them. "Gladys agreed I have a large photograph of them, and I just like to sit and look at them and so does papa."

Joy it Claire looked much pleased.

"I'm so glad your papa sees they're pretty" she said "because they look like him so much" much and I heard a lady who came to see Aggie the other day say she thought Mr. Wentworth had such very good taste about everything"

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"Well he does admire Pennrod's sisters very, very much" said Gladys. You know I coaxed them to give me one of their photographs of them, and I put it in a frame and hung it on the wall above my bureau so I could see it all the time.

I've seen papa looking at it every time he came into the nursery and this morning he stood in front of my bureau ever so long and when I spoke to him he didn't seem to hear. I had to pull his coat to make him look around and when I asked

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him what was still happening at Resemans house, he said it was a very discouraging situation. I think it was very disheartening for I didn't believe it would come to that."

"What shall we play" Joy inquired rather hurriedly. She had noticed the fretful sound in Gladys voice and was anxious to change the subject as soon as possible.

"I don't care" said Gladys indifferently

Joy proposed the checker game and Gladys consented and even let Joy teach her how to play.

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"I guess we can talk as we play" said Gladys and besides I want to talk to you about something. Do you think we might shut the door? It's very private and important I think it'll give us a plan"

Joy felt very much surprised and not a little curious as well and therefore hastened to close the door, and then came and sat by Gladys who was looking both expectant and excited.

It was something Sizzie said "began Gladys excitedly It was this morning

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and I've been thinking about it all the time ever since".

"Tell me all about it" said Joy in a tone of deep interest.

"Well it was just after breakfast and I went into the pantry for a drink of water. Sarah and Sizie were both there and Sarah asked me if I heard anything new about Mr. Desemins 'crazy' house. I told her what I heard was very discouraging and that papa said the Banshees were winning."

She said she didn't care to hear about any new fangled motions, and that

Mrs Graham with her children Daisy and Violet could drive the powers of darkness out of that place in a hurry. Then as I was drinking the water I told her that the demons were nasty old things and God alone could only drive them out.

She then didn't say anything she never does you know but just walked out of the pantry. I stayed and asked Sizie her opinion but she just shrugged her shoulders and said:

"Just you wait until those little Virrains get a small Blengiglomenean

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creature over here Miss and see if it will put up with the tantrums of the Banshees, I guess they won't have to wait long either from the looks of things." I was too surprised and excited to stay there any longer but when I asked Sarah (what) what Sizzie meant she only said no one could get a Blengiglom-mean creature over here, and that Sizzie ought to have sense to talk about things she didn't understand.

Gladys paused to note the effect of her story.

Glac Joy was looking very grave she took her little friends

hand and squeezed it sympathetically.

"Do you know anything about B Cengiglom-mean creatures?" Gladys inquired after a pause.

Joy shook her head. "I've heard about them" she said "But I never really seen any."

"Tom Penrods sisters I've heard they're wonderful creatures" said Gladys with a thrill in her voice. Oh Joy I'd like to see one" do I do and -"

The door opened suddenly and a little girl, it was Phobia pushed in. Horror, terror and panic were on her little face and as she

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ran twards Gladys and
Joy she burst into
a passion of tears.

"Oh Gladys oh Joy I
dont want to pass that
gate of that awful Ger-
man place. Oh I dont
I dont I've seen some-
thing awful."

Tender hearted Joy
and Gladys were terribly
distressed they had
an arm around their
friend in a moment
and were kissing and
soothing her as best as
they could.

"Dont cry so Phobia
dear" Joy pleaded the
tears of sympathy
streaming down her
own cheeks. Why do
you be so foolish

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as to pass Mr Resemans
haunted property?"

"I cant help it. it is my
only way home to and
from school theres no
other way" wailed Phobia
"Oh I saw the most aw-
ful thing in the grounds
by a big Elm tree as
I reached the gate"

"But did you go in?"
"No indeed"

"Why then you dont
even know it what
was, I dont believe it
could have done any-
thing to you at that
distance"

"Oh yes it could if
I had stayed."

"But the little vir-
tians are so good and
so fond of you I dont

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believe they'd let anything from Resemanns do anything to you"

"They can't help it oh they can't help it" wailed Phobia "They never I am. Your Cook Lizzie told me all about Mr Resemanns house. It's dreadful. She had three children of her own who were killed in that place four years ago. She said the house and its grounds are very beautiful especially in the summertime but its appearance don't say its safe for 2 little girls were strangled there and seven hobos killed,